

stand here today to applaud my dear friend and to honor her legacy.●

TRIBUTE TO JOEL WERNICK

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, it is an honor to rise on behalf of Senator DAVID PERDUE and myself to offer our congratulations on a job well done to Joel Wernick, a fine Georgian and the longtime president and chief executive officer of Phoebe Putney Health System in Albany, GA.

Under Joel's tireless leadership for the last 30 years, Phoebe Putney Health System has become a major regional healthcare provider. The Phoebe Putney Health System now includes Phoebe Sumter Medical Center, Phoebe Worth Medical Center, more than 15 primary and urgent care clinics, and nearly 30 specialty care clinics in counties throughout southwest Georgia.

As the health system has grown under Joel's guidance, it has become a major contributor to the entire region's economy. Today more than 4,500 people work under the Phoebe Putney umbrella, where they strive to improve the lives of Georgians from middle Georgia all the way south to the Georgia-Florida line.

Joel Wernick had the vision to grow Phoebe Putney's suite of services and provide comprehensive healthcare including world-class oncology, cardiovascular, and neonatal intensive care unit services in the southwest Georgia region. This increase in quality specialty services greatly benefits area residents who no longer have to travel extensive distances to receive care.

I also thank the board of directors and staff who have shared and supported this great leader's dedication to the people of Albany and the surrounding communities.

During Joel's tenure, Phoebe Putney has received State and national recognition, including the American Hospital Association's NOVA Award for teen pregnancy prevention and the prestigious Foster G. McGaw Prize for excellence in healthcare. Joel was a pioneer in making "upstream contributions" in community health programs over the years to reduce the cost and occurrence of disease and poor health before they reached the hospital setting.

In starting the Phoebe Family Medicine Residency Program, Joel has also appreciated the importance of healthcare for the family unit and the importance of training medical professionals in southwest Georgia and incentivizing them to remain there. Phoebe Putney's teaching hospital has graduated more than 120 residents, and Joel's investment in Flagstone, the housing that supports those residents and pharmacy students, has successfully kept doctors practicing in southwest Georgia rather than departing for larger cities.

Joel has helped keep the "golden rule" culture and the charm of south Georgia as guiding principles during

his tenure at Phoebe Putney, and for that, many have benefited and are grateful.

As Georgia's Senators, we are thankful for Joel's service and wish him well as he enters the next chapter of his life. May God bless him in his future pursuits.●

REMEMBERING ROY H. MADSEN

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, many Alaskans have contributed enormously to the development of the Territory of Alaska through Statehood and beyond with their special life skills, talents, courage, and insights into the world around them. Among that distinguished group was a very special man, Roy H. Madsen of Kodiak, AK. Roy Madsen was known for so many things. Among them, he was the first Alaska Native to serve as a judge of the Alaska Superior Court. On the eve of the Alaska Federation of Natives convention, I proudly honor his remarkable life that spanned 94 years from March 15, 1923 to December 26, 2017.

Roy was born in the village of Kanatak, located just across Shelikoff Straits from the Kodiak archipelago near the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes and Mount Katmai in the Katmai National Monument on the Alaskan Peninsula, an area which, in 1980, was expanded and renamed the Katmai National Park and Preserve.

Roy was one of eight children. His father, Charles Madsen, was a Danish immigrant who established a trading post at Kanatak. His mother, Alaska Native Mary (Metrokin) was a homemaker. The Madsens returned to his mother's hometown of Kodiak where, when Roy was only 4 years old, she passed. Roy and his siblings were raised in Kodiak by their dad and their stepmother, Alexandra Churnoff Madsen. Roy's love for his heritage and for the island remained centerpieces throughout his life. A member of the Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak, he lived there for most of his life.

Blessed with his mother's rich, Alaska Native Sugpiaq-Koniagmiut-Alutiiq-Russian subsistence culture and fortified by his father's immigrant mindset of courage and ambition, Roy lived his life setting goals and pursuing them, most often with success.

After graduating from Kodiak High School in a class of six, he entered Oregon State University in 1941. In 1943, he left college and enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served as a gunner and navigator on Patrol Torpedo Boat PT 190, the "Jack of Diamonds" in the South Pacific during World War II. While serving in the Navy in the Philippines and New Guinea, Roy's unit was awarded campaign medals and two battle stars.

It was after WWII that Roy and his first wife Katharine (Walters) and family moved back to Kodiak in 1946. To support his growing family, he spent a couple of summers fishing in Bristol

Bay on a Columbia River double ender by sail and became a registered Alaska bear guide, working with his father Captain Charles Madsen, guiding clients on Kodiak brown bear hunts.

The Madsens then moved to Oregon, where Roy finished his bachelor's degree and entered Northwestern College of Law, today the Lewis & Clark Law School, where he received his juris doctor degree in 1953. He served as assistant district attorney and practiced law in Oregon before, in 1961, returning with his family to Kodiak. Over the years, the Madsen clan grew to include seven children: Elizabeth, Mary Jane, Charles, Charlotte, Jacqueline, Guy—deceased—stepdaughter Shannon, 13 grandchildren, and 4 great-grand children.

Roy Madsen immersed himself in Kodiak's thriving civic and cultural life. In the 1960s, he established a law firm, was the Kodiak city attorney, and the Kodiak Island Borough attorney. During this period, his commitment to his heritage grew and became legendary. He helped establish the Kodiak Area Native Association KANA, serving as its first vice president. His niece, Rita Stevens, wife of State Senator Gary Stevens, later furthered the work Roy had begun by helping to lead KANA for nearly two decades.

As an attorney and Alaska Native, he contributed his knowledge and experience to efforts within Alaska to achieve a settlement through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of Alaska Native aboriginal land claims that resulted from work by many across the State in the enactment of Public Law 93-203 in 1971. He then helped to establish Koniag, Inc., one of the regional Alaska Native Corporations authorized by ANCSA.

It was in 1975 that Roy began service as a Superior Court judge. He served in the State's Third Judicial District, an area of approximately 67,000 square miles, and sat in Kodiak. He served as a judge on that court through 1990.

Judge Madsen continued to serve his beloved island through the decades. After his retirement from the bench, he enjoyed participating in Alaska court system's Colors of Justice Program, promoting acceptance of diversity and encouraging minorities to consider pursuing law as a career. He helped found, was chair of the first advisory board, and was a professor at the Kodiak Community College teaching constitutional, criminal, and business law. After his retirement from the bench, he was appointed to the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights and to the Alaska Supreme Court Committee on Fairness and Access to the Courts.

Roy was counsel for writing the articles of incorporation for and an original board member of St. Herman's Orthodox Theological Seminary, a board member of the Kodiak Baptist Missions Treatment Center for Troubled Youths, and a member of the advisory board of St. Innocent's Orthodox Academy for Troubled Youths. He also served on the